

SPECIAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF A NEW REPORT, ENTITLED "SYSTEMATICS COLLECTIONS: A NATIONAL PLAN . . ."

Draft copies of a Report entitled "Systematics Collections: A National Plan . . ." will be available at no charge *until 31 January 1973* from Philip S. Humphrey, Interim Secretary, Association of Systematics Collections, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

The draft Report soon to be available, represents the combined efforts of a great many systematists over a period of more than a year and takes into account the many constructive and thoughtful comments stimulated by the Symposium on "Systematic Biology—The Development of a National Program on Resources and Resource Management" held at the National Academy of Sciences in July 1972. Following the Symposium in late September, a Writing Conference was held at the Belmont Estate, chaired by representatives of the Association of Systematics Collections, with generous support from the Smithsonian Institution. The 24 members of the "Belmont Writing Conference," all of them systematic biologists, were unanimous in their feeling that the systematic community and other communities of "users" of systematics collections and associated resources should have an opportunity to review the Report and comment on it before its final publication and distribution, which is now scheduled for March 1973.

The Report presents a "National Plan" for making systematics collections and their associated resources a more effective national resource, better able to serve the needs of systematic biologists and those agencies of society which depend on systematic information in seeking solutions to various biomedical, environmental, agricultural, and other problems. The "National Plan" presented in the draft Report is an important first step which, hopefully, will lead soon to solutions to some of the most basic problems which have been plaguing systematics collections and their associated resources for a great many years.

The editors responsible for preparing the Report for publication, will be doing so during the latter part of February 1973. It is hoped that all those interested in systematics collections and the services they provide will take the opportunity to read the Report in its draft form and provide the editors with thoughtful and constructive comments, all of which will be considered by the editors in their efforts to make the Report a more effective instrument for the communities it is designed to serve. J. C. Dickinson, Interim President, Association of Systematic Collections.